

Listing of the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A vacuum gripper for suctioning work pieces comprising:
 - a flexible suction body;
 - a side of the suction body facing a workpiece including a sealing lip bounding a vacuum chamber, the vacuum chamber connected by air flow to a vacuum connection;
 - the suction body having a contact surface abutting the work piece with prevailing vacuum in the vacuum chamber; and
 - a microstructure projecting from the contact surface and formed of one of a rod, louver and pin-shaped elements having a length two to twenty times greater than a thickness of the elements, the elements having a free end intersected by a longitudinal axis of the elements, the free end being displaced away from the contact surface and the longitudinal axis oriented so as to intersect the contact surface.
2. (Previously Presented) The vacuum gripper in accordance with claim 1, wherein the elements are part of a microstructure.
3. (Previously Presented) The vacuum gripper in accordance with claim 1, wherein at least one of the elements and the free ends of the elements are plially flexible.
4. (Previously Presented) The vacuum gripper in accordance with claim 1, wherein the elements are formed of the same material as the suction body.
5. (Previously Presented) The vacuum gripper in accordance with claim 1, wherein the elements are disposed as one piece on the suction body.
6. (Previously Presented) The vacuum gripper in accordance with claim 1, wherein the elements are disposed on a carrier to be attached to the suction body.

7. (Previously Presented) The vacuum gripper in accordance with claim 6, wherein the carrier is one of a plate and a film.

8. (Previously Presented) The vacuum gripper in accordance with claim 1, wherein the elements are made of plastic.

9. (Cancelled).

10. (Previously Presented) The vacuum gripper in accordance with claim 1, wherein the elements are at a distance from each other that corresponds to 0.5 to 2.5 times a thickness of the elements.

11. (Previously Presented) The vacuum gripper in accordance with claim 1, wherein the elements have one of a rounded, a flattened and a pointed free end.

12. (Previously Presented) The vacuum gripper in accordance with claim 1, wherein the elements have one of a circular, an elliptical and a flat cross section.

13. (Previously Presented) The vacuum gripper in accordance with claim 12, wherein a blade plane for elements with a flat cross section extends in the circumferential direction of the vacuum gripper.

14. (Previously Presented) The vacuum gripper in accordance with claim 1, wherein the elements project perpendicularly from the contact surface.

15. (Previously Presented) The vacuum gripper in accordance with claim 1, wherein the sealing lip is free of the elements.

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16. (Previously Presented) The vacuum gripper in accordance with claim 1, wherein the elements extend over 70 to 95% of the vacuum gripper's radius, starting from the center of the vacuum gripper.

17. (Previously Presented) The vacuum gripper in accordance with claim 1, wherein a length of the elements measures 0.1 to 3mm.

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Currently Amended) ~~The method in accordance with claim 18; A~~
method for producing a suction gripper having a flexible suction body that includes a contact surface and a microstructure projecting from the contact surface, the microstructure formed of one of a rod, louver and pin-shaped elements, the method comprising the step of steps of:
injection molding the suction body; and
cutting the elements at least partially out of the contact surface by means of a laser.

20. (Currently Amended) ~~The method in accordance with claim 18; A~~
method for producing a suction gripper having a flexible suction body that includes a contact surface and a microstructure projecting from the contact surface, the microstructure formed of one of a rod, louver and pin-shaped elements, the method comprising the step of steps of:
injection molding the suction body; and
adhering, at least in sections, a film forming the elements to the contact surface.

21. (Previously Presented) The method in accordance with claim 20, comprising the step of adhering several films on top of each other.

22. (Original) The vacuum gripper in accordance with claim 1, wherein a length of the elements is five to ten times greater than a thickness of the elements.

23. (Original) The vacuum gripper in accordance with claim 1, wherein the elements are at a distance from each other that corresponds to one to two times a thickness of the elements.

24. (Original) The vacuum gripper in accordance with claim 1, wherein a length of the elements measures 0.5 to 1.0 mm.